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oughly trustworthy in all respects, except the author's opinions on this one point. These must be taken with an allowance due to the fact just stated.

On the whole, it can be said with assurance that Mr. VAN FLEET has thoroughly and satisfactorily performed the task he set himself at the outset, with one exception. It was his aim, he tells us in the preface, to make the consideration of the decisions so exhaustive that there would be no occasion to read the cases themselves. This no text-book can ever do. The gap between the judge and the reader is too wide for the latter to be sure that it has been properly bridged, until he has tested the bridging; and as long as men are fallible, and author, compositor and proof-reader stand between the lawyer and the original decision, just so long will the accurate and painstaking practitioner refer to the originals, if for nothing else, to verify the accuracy of the text-book statements. But it does not detract from the value of Mr. VAN FLEET's services that he has failed to do that which no man can accomplish.

X.

THE RELIGION OF THE REPUBLIC AND LAWS OF RELIGIOUS CORPORATIONS. By ALPHA J. KYNNETT. Cincinnati and New York: Cranston & Curts and Hunt & Eaton. 1895.

This work consists of two parts—the first being entitled, “Religion and the National Life,” and the second, “Laws Relating to Religious Societies.” In Part I. the chapter-headings are as follows: “The Universality of Religion;” “The American Civil Structure—the Republic;” “Religion in the Republic;” “Classes of Organizations;” “Church Property;” “Corporations Creatures of Law;” “Wills;” “Forms.” When it is observed that these eight chapters are contained in one hundred and thirty pages, it becomes clear that the work cannot be more than an outline, or summary statement, of some of the more important principles underlying the subjects of which the author treats. The style of the author is clear. In his efforts at condensation he sometimes falls into the common error of combining in a single

sentence thoughts, which might have been expressed more satisfactorily in distinct sentences. The following sentence occurs in the chapter on the "Universality of Religion :" "China, now claiming to be the most ancient of nations, from the remotest times to the present day, from the Emperor—the highest dignitary and earthly authority—to the peasant—the lowest in social grade—has always, according to Hon. Pung Kwang Yu, First Secretary of the Chinese Legation and Special Commissioner to the World's Parliament of Religions, paid highest reverence to heaven and spirits, and their religious nature is manifest in ancestral worship." It is, of course, difficult to do justice to a great religious system in the short space which Dr Kynett devotes to the discussion of each; but this is an age in which the world moves so fast that we are not apt to object to summary statements of important subjects, merely because the view which we obtain is a superficial one. Dr. Kynett waxes eloquent over the Parliament of Religions, which was one of the features of the Columbian Exposition. It is to be hoped that he is right in anticipating that the final triumph of Christianity has been hastened by the attendance at the Parliament of the cultured representatives of other religions, who there put themselves on record as abundantly satisfied with the systems to which they owed allegiance.

The summary statement of the relation between the people of the United States, the State and Federal Governments is clear and concise, and in the main accurate, while the chapter on "Religion in the Republic" contains a somewhat indiscriminate collection of authorities in support of the view that Christianity is a part of the American Common Law. The remaining chapters of the first part—except the chapter on "Forms"—contain notes or memoranda of points of importance connected with the subjects to which the chapter relates. The forms for incorporation, deeds, etc., are well selected, and will doubtless be found useful.

Part II. consists of fifty-one chapters, which are summaries of the statutory law relating to religious societies in as many States and territories of the Union. This will probably be found to be the most useful part of the book, although we

doubt whether it will be possible to republish the work often enough to enable the author to keep pace with the changes which so constantly occur in the legislation of the different jurisdictions. The laws relating to religious corporations are changed less frequently, however, than those which relate to business corporations, and Dr. Kynett's book will accordingly continue to be a reliable hand-book for some time to come.

G. W. P.

AMERICAN RAILROADS AND CORPORATE REPORTS. Edited and Annotated by JOHN LEWIS. Volumes X. and XI. Chicago : E. B. Myers & Co. 1895.

These volumes attain to the standard of excellence which Mr. LEWIS has set before himself from the time that the series began. The selection of cases is good, and the annotations are careful and well written. In Volume X. the editor appends to Richards *v.* American Desk and Seating Company (S. C. of Wisconsin ; reported page 99) an annotation upon "contracts in restraint of trade considered with reference to the bearing of the principles involved upon the validity of pools and trusts." All the important cases upon the subject, both English and American, have been collected and classified, and the learning upon this important topic has been condensed into a remarkably small space. The somewhat unsatisfactory decision of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in Nester *v.* Continental Brewing Company is followed by a note upon trusts and combinations, in the nature of partnership, in which there is a substantial unification of the property and interests of the several constituents. The cases are collected in groups according to States, but extended examination of them is deferred to Volume XI., where an annotation appears in full at page 388, *et seq.*, following the decision of the Supreme Court of Illinois in Distilling and Cattle Feeding Company *v.* People. Volume X. contains the important decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, in N. Y., L. E. & W. R. Co. *v.* Pennsylvania, upon the validity of the statute requiring foreign railway corporations to deduct from the interest on its